

views, work with, listen to and consider each other. If the process used by this conference is used to resolve the conflicts that still face American forestry then successful resolution is possible. If this happens, and most participants in the congress committed themselves to continue that process, then the Seventh American Congress will prove to have been a great success.

A quotation from a speaker at the closing of the conference was particularly apt: "If you do what you have always done you will get what you always got".

Some additional thoughts from Don Mead

Dr Wink Sutton has captured the feeling of the 7th American Forest Congress. I too felt it was a privilege to be invited to

attend so that the Congress could have some input from outsiders. There are a few other points that I would like to add to what Wink has said:

- The Congress was democracy in action. Anybody who wished to was allowed to attend and the organisers went out of their way to find sponsorship for those who needed financial assistance.
- This resulted in a reasonable cross-section of people present, although some minority groups were poorly represented.
- The group process that was undertaken, in order to allow all views to be heard, was the largest of its type ever to be attempted in the USA and probably the world. The organisation was superb, with about 100 support staff.

• The Congress was hard work with long hours. It was important to actively listen and be involved. It was, however, personally very rewarding.

• The level of agreement was outstanding. The vision statement for the US public and private forests was made up of a series of elements, each of which was voted on by all delegates. For each element we were asked if we agreed with the statement, could live with it, or if we disagreed. For one of the elements, only 3% disagreed.

Final Test

The final test of this Congress will be to see how the vision and the principles for managing the forests are actioned and how the dialogue that began at the Congress continues. This will be interesting to follow over the next decade.



RECENT EVENTS



School of Forestry News

Numbers

With all the Professional years now being taught at the University of Canterbury, the School is a very busy place indeed. There are 217 undergraduates (45 in the final year) and 64 postgraduate students (14 Diploma students, 36 Masters, and 12 Ph.D candidates). As well, the School is being used by many Engineering lecturers while the School of Engineering is undergoing building changes, swelling the numbers even further. While the numbers are impressive, there has been no great change from last year, both in the School and for the University of Canterbury as a whole.

Seminar Programme

The School's Seminar Programme seems even more active than in the past, with "aspects of international forestry" as the main theme. Already this year we have had speakers from Denmark, North Sumatra, Java, Bavaria, Virginia, Germany and Sabah, and they have attracted large audiences. As well, Don Wijewardana, from the Ministry of Forestry, presented his views on the current international debate on sustainable forest management. Alan Ogle of Groome Poyry will be the next speaker in the Dean's Lecture Series, and his topic will be "International Forestry Consulting and Opportunities for the Mar-

keting of New Zealand Expertise Off-shore".

SOFAC Meeting

The School recently hosted the members of the School of Forestry Advisory Committee, a group that has been set up to give the forestry sector's views to the School and to act, when appropriate, on the School's behalf. Members are Mike Cuddihy (DOC), Rod McGowan (FITEC), Helen Hughes (Ministry for the Environment), David New (Fletcher Forests), Kyran Newell (MOF), Bruce Manley (FRI), and Dennys Guild (private forestry consultant). Staff members on the Committee are Professor Sands and Dean Ron O'Reilly. SOFAC, which played a part in the recent review of the School and in the appointment of the Professor of the School, meets twice a year in Christchurch.

Staff Travel

Dr David Norton recently returned from a visit to Siberut, Indonesia and Sabah, Malaysia, where he familiarised himself with the ecology and conservation of the tropical forests. David was surprised by the strong floristic and structural similarities between upland forests such as those on Gunung Gede in Java and Mt Kanabalu in Sabah, and New Zealand forests. This

was especially so in groups such as the ferns, orchids and podocarps, but also in other groups (e.g. *Leptospermum*).

Liaison Committee Established

A joint School of Forestry - Lincoln University committee has been established to consider and communicate issues in forest teaching and research that are of mutual interest to the two universities. Setting up such a committee was one of the major recommendations of the recent School of Forestry review. Members of the committee from Lincoln are Professor Ian Cornforth, Soil Science, Dr Don Mead, Plant Science, and Dr Hugh Bigsby, Economic and Marketing. School of Forestry members include Professor Roger Sands, Dean Ron O'Reilly, and Dr Euan Mason.

School of Forestry on the Internet

News regarding the School of Forestry can be now found on the information highway, through the University of Canterbury site (<http://www.canterbury.ac.nz>) and clicking on University of Canterbury Department Home Pages. Jeanette Allen, Secretary at the School, reports that she is making progress with many of the news items which are still under development. Happy surfing!

Ron O'Reilly